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**VICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Law Enforcement  
Policies and Procedures**

<b>Subject: Use of Restraint Chair</b>	<b>Policy Number: 5.09</b>
<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Revision Date:</b>
<b>Approval Authority Title and Signature: The Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Police Chief Walter Armstrong</b>	

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Vicksburg Police Department that the restraint chair may be used to provide safe containment of a prisoner exhibiting violent or uncontrollable behavior and to prevent self-injury, injury to others, or property damage when other control techniques are not effective.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED  
IN BOARD MEETING

MAY 10 2017

**PROCEDURES**

Only the on-duty Watch Commander may authorize the use of the restraint chair. The Watch Commander must be trained and certified in its use. The restraint chair will never be utilized as a form of punishment or harassment, and a prisoner will be placed in the restraint chair only long enough for them to regain control of their behavior.

Walter D. Armstrong

**Conditions for Use**

The restraint chair may be used for emergencies in any or all of the following situations:

1. When a prisoner has demonstrated violent, dangerous, or uncontrollable behavior.
2. To prevent prisoner self-injury, injury to others, or property damage when other techniques have been ineffective in assisting the prisoner to regain control.
3. Upon recommendation by a psychiatrist, physician, or a qualified health care professional.
4. Upon the request of a prisoner who indicated that they are having self-injurious thoughts and with the concurrence of a qualified mental health care professional.
5. As a means of moving a combative prisoner safely from one section of the police station to another.

Only personnel trained in the use of the restraint chair will place a prisoner in it. A minimum of two (2) officers and a supervisor will be present to assist in the placement of a prisoner in the restraint chair.

**RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA**

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## Application Guidelines

If the prisoner's behavior appears to be the result of a mental illness, the Watch Commander or Officer shall call an EMT/Paramedic for a medical evaluation to determine whether the prisoner should be transported to the hospital for a physician's evaluation.

After it has been determined that the restraint chair is necessary and its use has been authorized, application will conform to the following guidelines. Officers will:

1. Visually inspect the chair to ensure that all equipment and accessories are in proper working order.
2. Place the prisoner in the restraint chair in accordance with the manufacturer's established procedures.
3. Videotape the placement of the prisoner in the restraint chair.
4. Keep the prisoner under direct and constant observation while in the restraint chair.
5. Physically check the restraint components every 30 minutes to ensure they are properly employed, secure, and present no obvious physical concerns to the prisoner. A second person shall be present when the restraints are checked. These checks will be documented on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log.
6. Offer the prisoner the opportunity to use the bathroom whenever appropriate, but at least once every hour and document on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log.
7. Offer the prisoner the opportunity to eat meals at the proper times and document on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log.
8. Offer the prisoner water whenever appropriate to maintain hydration, but at least once each hour and document on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log.
9. Ensure that if personnel observe a use of the restraint chair which would jeopardize the health of a prisoner, they will immediately communicate their concerns to the immediate supervisor, the on-duty Watch Commander, a Major Work Unit Commander, a Deputy Chief, or the Chief of Police.
10. Should any medical emergency occur while the prisoner is in the restraint chair, they are to be removed immediately and an EMT/Paramedic will be summoned for medical evaluation and treatment.
11. The maximum time a prisoner can be secured and controlled in the restraint chair is two (2) hours, at which time the prisoner should be removed from the chair. After, release, and depending on the prisoner's actions, the Watch Commander may re-evaluate and re-order the prisoner to be once again placed into the restraint chair, at which time all restraint chair requirements start anew. Should the prisoner be re-ordered into the chair, the Chief of Police shall be immediately notified.
12. Any injuries suffered by a prisoner while secured in the restraint chair shall immediately be reported to the Chief of Police.

## PROCEDURE FOR USE OF RESTRAINT CHAIR

The following procedure shall be followed in the use of the restraint chair:

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1. Ensure that all of the prisoner's personal property has been removed from them, including but not limited to jewelry, eyeglasses, keys, shoes, boots, socks, coat, hat, and belt. They should only be clothed in their shirt, pants, or dress.
2. Have the prisoner sit in the seat, secure the lap belt free end in the lap belt clevis and pull the handle until snug.
3. If wearing leg irons, place the chain of the leg irons behind the chain retainer.
4. Attach the handcuff tether to the handcuffs.
5. Release the right wrist from the handcuffs and secure it to the arm of the restraint chair with the right wrist strap and pull the belt snug. Do not cut off circulation to the hand.
6. Release the left wrist from the handcuffs and secure it to the arm of the restraint chair with the left wrist strap and pull the belt snug. Do not cut off the circulation to the hand.
7. Re-tighten the lap belt if necessary.
8. Fasten the shoulder strap by passing the free ends over the shoulders, under the armpits, and secure them to the shoulder strap clevises located on the back of the chair. Then tighten by pulling down on the shoulder strap handle. Do not wrap the straps around the chest, head, or neck.
9. Secure the ankle strap by passing the free end around the front of the ankle and securing it to the ankle strap clevis. Then pull the ankle strap until snug.
10. If leg irons are being used, remove the leg irons.
11. Reassess the straps to ensure they are properly secure.

### **Duties of the Watch Commander**

The Watch Commander will select and direct a department employee to maintain constant visual observation of the prisoner secured in the restraint chair and document these on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log.

The Watch Commander will review the use of the restraint chair once (1) every hour. This will include talking with the prisoner, checking the restraints for comfort and security, developing an appropriate plan for release, and checking the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log for appropriate entries.

The Watch Commander will ensure that the Booking Officer or a designated employee fills out a Restraint Chair Monitoring Log until the prisoner is released from the restraint chair.

The Watch Commander shall ensure that no one is kept in the restraint chair for more than two (2) hours without the authorization of the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, or Major Work Unit Commander.

### **Removal from the Restraint Chair**

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Officers will remove the prisoner from the restraint chair when a supervisor determines that there is no longer a threat to self or others and the prisoner can be managed by other means.

1. A minimum of two (2) officers and the Watch Commander will be present when a prisoner is removed from the restraint chair.
2. The Booking Officer or a designated employee will clean and disinfect the restraint chair prior to storage.
3. The Booking Officer or a designated employee will complete the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log
4. The Watch Commander will complete a Use of Force Report after the prisoner is removed from the restraint chair.

### **Training Requirements**

The Chief of Police will ensure that all personnel who may be called upon to use the restraint chair are trained in the proper technique for its use.

Only personnel who have been trained in the proper use of the restraint chair will be authorized to place a prisoner in it. Officers will receive initial training in its proper use and receive refresher training once per calendar year.

The Training Officer will maintain a list of all officers trained in the use of the restraint chair.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The department employee designated to directly observe the prisoner shall document his/her direct visual observation on the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log. The use of the restraint chair is considered to be a use of force and a Use of Force Report will be completed by the Watch Commander. These will be forwarded to the commander of the Patrol Division at the end of their shift.

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## RESTRAINT CHAIR MONITORING LOG

### I. INITIATION OF USE OF RESTRAINT CHAIR

Prisoner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized By: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does the prisoner appear to have a **serious mental illness**? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 If yes, Psychiatrist/QMHP or physician approval (name and initials): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Behavior demonstrated by prisoner: \_\_\_\_\_

Area chosen in which observation will occur: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Y N Prisoner strip searched. Why?: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Y N Prisoner allowed to use bathroom before being restrained  
 Placing officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Placing officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. MONITORING OF USE

Constant observation from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Mental and physical status checked every 30 minutes; limbs exercised every 2 hours:

Date/time checked												
Checked by (initials)												

Watch Commander checks prisoner/reviews use every one (1) hour

Date/time checked												
Checked by (initials)												

Booking Officer actions at least every hour: (Indicate time and initial)

Offers prisoner water				
Offers prisoner use of bathroom				
Offers prisoner food at mealtimes				

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### III. REMOVAL OF PRISONER FROM RESTRAINT CHAIR

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures, 5.08 Use of Restraint Chair

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Removing officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Removing officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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